GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2763
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2007
STUDY OF ICRIER
Nedurumalli Janardhana Reddy Shri

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council for Research and International Economic Relations (ICRIER) has, in a study, found that a sizable number of blue collar workers in companies are more prone to acute chronic diseases like AIDS and TB as reported in the Times of India, dated September, 13, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any independent study to find out the reasons for this malady; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to control these diseases?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT.PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) Yes sir. In order to assess the impact of preventive health care on the Indian Industry, a survey of some of the best performing companies was undertaken during 2006 by The Indian Council for Research and International Economic Relations (ICRIER). The study observed that White collar workers were found to be more prone to stress and lifestyle related health conditions while the blue collar workers with low incomes were more afflicted with infectious diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea, influenza, Tuberculosis and HIV infection. Further, six percent of Blue-collared workers were reported to have chronic infectious diseases such as Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in comparison to 1% of senior level officers (White Collared).

(c) & (d) Separate study covering the employees of industries has not been done. The Government of India is supporting the state governments for the control of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria. Healthy lifestyles are promoted through health educational programmes.